

**In the Claims:**

Please amend claims 5 and 40 by substituting each of the following claims for the corresponding pending claims:

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5. (Amended) An apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein the means for forming comprises a control unit coupled to the means for pumping and including a database of predetermined reagent-mixture ratios, wherein each predetermined reagent-mixture ratio corresponds to one or more animal species, and the control unit is responsive to an input for a selected animal species to control the means for pumping to pump the reagent-mixture components of the respective reagent-mixture ratio of the selected animal species at a flow-rate ratio corresponding to the reagent-mixture ratio.

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40. (Amended) An apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein the means for forming forms the selected reagent mixture by adjusting the flow rates of at least two reagent-mixture components in accordance with the respective flow-rate ratio.

Please add the following new claims:

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45. (New) An apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein the means for forming comprises a control unit electrically coupled to the means for pumping to set the flow rates of the reagent-mixture components in accordance with the flow-rate ratio of each selected reagent mixture.

46. (New) An apparatus as defined in claim 45, wherein the control unit includes a database of information pertaining to the flow-rate ratios of the reagent-mixture components of the selected reagent mixtures.

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47. (New) An apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein the means for combining includes a mixing chamber, a plurality of inlet ports coupled in fluid communication between the mixing chamber and the means for pumping for introducing the reagent-mixture components into the mixing chamber, and at least one outlet port coupled in fluid communication between the mixing chamber and the means for analyzing for introducing the combined reagent-mixture stream into the means for analyzing.

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